Suitable measures to meet any adverse situation continue to be taken. Presently, the situation is normal.

Construction of FRT

1399. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Fleet Replenishment Tanker (FRT) Aditya at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. has been completed and inducted into the navy after trials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) March, 2000.

Purchase of aircraft carrier from Russia

1400, SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to purchase Russia's 20 years old ailing aircraft carrier Gorshkov which would need millions of dollars for retrofitting;

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the purchasing cost of the aricraft carrier and the estimated cost for its retrofitting; and

(c) what are the compulsions for buying an ailing aircraft carrier, requiring huge expenditure on its retrofitting?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Indian Navy needs an Aircraft Carrier to meet its operational requirements. The Government of the Russian Federation have offered to gift 'Admiral Gorshkov', an aircraft carrier, to India. It will require to be repaired, modified and modernised at the cost of the Indian Government before it can be inducted into service. The details in these regards are yet to be worked out.